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authors, as a rule, appear to be much more interested in the remote history of the states in which the towns they write about are situated than in the history of the towns themselves, and it is this lack of local coloring, so to speak, that causes the present volume to suffer by a comparison with its predecessors. Not that the South is lacking in towns of historic interest, for in no other part of the United States would a proper study of urban beginnings yield more fruitful results. The trouble seems to lie mainly in the absence of a trained corps of investigators. Comparatively little, for example, is said by any of these writers about city charters, municipal activity, statistics of wealth and population, or, indeed, anything else that is likely to prove either of interest or value to the student of local institutions.

Perhaps the best chapters are those represented by Mr. Yates Snowden's "Charleston," the late Mr. William Wirt Henry's "Richmond," President Lyon G. Tyler's "Williamsburg," Mr. Peter J. Hamilton's "Mobile," Professor George Petrie's "Montgomery," Judge Joshua W. Caldwell's "Knoxville," and Mr. Lucien V. Rule's "Louisville." It is noteworthy that in the article on New Orleans nothing whatever is said about such topics as Lafitte, the Civil War, or reconstruction. The book is generously illustrated. It contains a good index, and is comparatively free from typographical errors. And in spite of the imperfections indicated above, those who may perchance read the volume will not only get a better knowledge of the romance of the Old South and the promise of the New, but they will also find scattered throughout its pages many important references to original sources.

B. J. RAMAGE.

Chapters from Illinois History. By EDWARD G. MASON. (Chicago: Herbert S. Stone and Co. 1901. Pp. 322.)

THE ambition of the late Edward G. Mason, for some time president of the Chicago Historical Society, to write a scholarly and exhaustive history of the state of Illinois found realization only in five "chapters" now brought out by a Chicago firm as a posthumous work. Probably only the first of these five fragments, that entitled "The Land of the Illinois," is in its final and accepted form; yet no doubt a large part of the remaining detached essays would have found a place in the completed work. They bear the titles: "Illinois in the Eighteenth Century," "Illinois in the Revolution," "The March of the Spaniards across Illinois" and "The Chicago Massacre" (of 1812). The first was printed by the Fergus Company of Chicago, in 1881, and the third in the *Magazine of American History* for May, 1886. The others have never appeared in print.

The "Land of the Illinois" begins with what the author regards as the earliest written reference to the Illinois Indians, "a nation where there is a quantity of buffalo," as marked on the map of New France made by Champlain in 1632. From this starting-point, the narrative

proceeds with painstaking exactness and minute research until La Salle and Tonty appear, when the labor of investigation becomes a labor of delight in recounting their heroic deeds. In the full swing of appreciative and vigorous narrative, the hand of the penman is suddenly relaxed. Death stopped the story in the promise of its excellence as it cut off the writer in the very height of his usefulness. The narrative ends abruptly with the reappointment of Frontenac to the governorship of Canada in 1689. La Salle had met his tragic fate; but his faithful follower, Tonty, "first seigneur of the Isle of Tonty," was still governor of Fort St. Louis on the Illinois river.

The reader of this story of the beginnings of French dominion in Illinois is immediately struck by the almost unparalleled list of citations, necessarily led by the Jesuit Relations. Scarcely a statement is made for which two or more authorities are not given. Where these materially differ, the author has stated his preference with the clearness of the lawyer. Indeed, the legal training of Mr. Mason is most evident in the judicial severity with which he examines the numerous and often conflicting statements in manuscripts and maps of the Jesuits and traders in those evolutionary days. His style is usually as simple as a chronicle, leaving the reader to absorb the facts.

The multiplicity of names introduced makes the need of an index almost imperative. Its absence renders the book almost as useless to the student as a library would be without a catalogue. No doubt the unfinished condition of the work explains this lack; but it can scarcely ensure pardon to the publishers for the omission.

The credit for the discovery of the upper Mississippi and the Illinois valleys Mr. Mason would give to Jolliet (always so written here) rather than to Marquette. "Every reliable authority demonstrates the mistake, and yet the delusion continues." His argument rests upon the statement of Marquette that Jolliet was sent to discover new countries and he to preach the gospel; that Frontenac reported Jolliet as the man selected for this purpose; that Father Dablon confirms this statement; and that the Canadians rewarded only Jolliet for the discovery.

Father Hennepin appears as "a vain, good-natured and sadly unreliable friar." The Jesuits generally take a position of secondary importance and many appear in a way likely to be challenged by their adherents. On many points disputed by local historians, Mr. Mason speaks authoritatively. He locates Fort Crèvecoeur in Woodford county, Illinois, some distance above Peoria; traces its name not to La Salle's disappointment, as does Parkman, but to a fort of that name in the Netherlands in the capture of which Tonty had participated, or to the French noble family of that name; puts Fort St. Louis on the top of what is now "Starved Rock;" and follows Joutel in deriving the word "Chicago" from wild garlic. Quite naturally, the "first" things of Chicago occupy no little space, as when La Salle's letter headed "Du portage de Checagou 4 jan. 1683" is pointed out as the first document written entirely at what is now the western metropolis.

The chapter on "Illinois in the Eighteenth Century" is made up of a sketch of old Fort Chartres under French rule, in which an excellent description of the present appearance of the fort is given, and extracts from the minute book of Col. John Todd, who became governor of the Virginia county of Illinois in 1778. It shows the introduction of American government. "Illinois in the Revolution" covers not only the expedition of George Rogers Clark but the lesser-known forays of Tom Brady, Paulette Meillet, James Willing, and Le Balme against the English and the retaliatory excursions of Indians and British under de Ver-ville and under de Longlade.

The "Spanish March across Illinois" describes an expedition sent from Spanish St. Louis in 1781 against the British trading post at St. Joseph, where Niles, Michigan, now stands. Rejecting the usually accepted thought that it was simply a marauding expedition of Spanish, French and Indians against a common foe, Mr. Mason argues very forcefully that it was deliberately planned to substantiate the claim of Spain to the land lying between the mountains and the Mississippi, to be fully set forth at the end of the Revolutionary War. Among the author's strongest arguments is a warning letter from John Jay to Congress, enclosing an account of the expedition which had appeared in the Madrid *Gazette*.

Mr. Mason was Connecticut born, a graduate of Yale, a man of wealth, and a busy lawyer, who yet found time and energy to build up a flourishing historical society, housed in an absolutely fireproof building, and to give to the public these sketches which not only make a clear and convincing presentation of known matter but also add not a little to the usable information concerning early Illinois.

EDWIN ERLE SPARKS.

American Relations in the Pacific and the Far East, 1784-1900. By JAMES MORTON CALLAHAN, Ph.D. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press. 1901. Pp. 177.)

THIS book is the outgrowth of a course of lectures delivered before graduate students in Johns Hopkins University in 1899-1900, on the origin and evolution of American enterprise and policy in the Pacific and Far East. It contains ten chapters with a subject index and an appendix.

The text covers about 150 pages, with nearly 300 footnotes; a very small space for so large a subject. By avoiding unnecessary repetition more space could have been obtained for interesting details.

Dr. Callahan deserves our special thanks for giving abstracts of several unpublished documents, including Lieutenant Ingraham's Journal of the Voyage of the *Hope*, from Boston to the northwest coast of America (p. 18), which deserves to be published in full. Unfortunately, however, he accepts too readily the statements of whatever voyager he is using at the time of writing, without taking pains to verify the statements from easily accessible sources. The account which he gives (on p. 17) of the